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US Patent Application No. 10/068,224

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this Application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A composition comprising a meiosis activation substance in a container wherein the oxygen content in the container is less than about 0.01 moles oxygen per liter and the container is capable of maintaining the oxygen content.

2. cancelled

3. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the oxygen content is less than about 0.001 moles of oxygen per liter.

4. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the oxygen content is less than about 0.0001 moles of oxygen per liter.

5-20. cancelled

21. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the meiosis activation substance is a compound exhibiting a percentage germinal vesicle breakdown which is 50% higher than a control.

22. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the meiosis activation substance is 4,4-dimethyl-5 α -cholesta-8,14,24-triene-3 β -ol; 4,4-dimethyl-5 α -cholest-8,14,24-trien-3 β -ol hemisuccinate; 5 α -cholest-8,14-dien-3 β -ol;

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5 α -cholest-8,14-dien-3 β -ol hemisuccinate; (20S)-cholest-5-en-3 β ,20-diol; 3 β -hydroxy-4,4-dimethyl-5 α -chola-8,14-dien-24-oic acid-N-(methionine) amide; cholest-5-en-16 β -ol; or (20S)-20-[(piperidin-1-yl)methyl]-4,4-dimethyl-5 α -pregna-8,14-dien-3 β -ol.

23-36. cancelled

37. (original) A process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition in a closed container, comprising:

- a) preparing a solid composition comprising a meiosis activation substance and an additive;
- b) adding the solid composition to the container;
- c) freeze drying the composition; and
- d) closing the container *in vacuo*.

38. (previously presented) The process of claim 37, wherein the preparation of the solid composition is performed *in vacuo*.

39. (previously presented) The process according to claim 37, wherein the preparation of the solid composition is performed in an atmosphere having an oxygen content of less than about 0.01 moles per liter.

40. (previously presented) A process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition in a closed container comprising:

- a) preparing a solid composition comprising a meiosis activation substance and an additive;
- b) filling the solid composition into the container;
- c) filling the container with an atmosphere having an oxygen content of less than 10%; and
- d) closing the container.

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41. (previously presented) The process of claim 40, wherein the solid composition is prepared in an atmosphere having an oxygen content of less than about 0.01 moles per liter.

42. (previously presented) A process for increasing the stability of a composition in a closed container comprising:

- a) preparing a solid composition comprising a meiosis activation substance having an oxygen content of less than about 0.01 moles per liter and an additive;
- b) filling the solid composition into the container;
- c) filling the container with an atmosphere having an oxygen content of less than 10%; and
- d) closing the container.